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Kucinich Applauds Replacement of Fisheries Enforcement Chief
Director of the Office for Law Enforcement Replaced

Washington D.C. (April 8, 2010) – Chairman Dennis Kucinich (D-OH) today applauded steps taken by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) to replace the Director of the Office for Law Enforcement, Mr. Dale J. Jones. Effective immediately, Alan Risenhoover, current Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, will serve as the interim Director of Office for Law Enforcement (OLE).

"This is a necessary and constructive step towards reforming the problems at the NOAA Office for Law Enforcement. It is not enough, however, to address the severity of the mismanagement and misallocation of resources characterizing that agency. Further reforms are necessary," said Kucinich.

Congressman Dennis Kucinich, as Chairman of the Domestic Policy Subcommittee of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, held a field hearing last month in Gloucester, Massachusetts to examine problems with enforcement by NOAA's Office for Law Enforcement.

Following the March 2 hearing, Kucinich, along with Representative John F. Tierney (D-MA), demanded internal documents with specific information about potential improprieties relating to certain activities of OLE senior management including: international travel, hiring practices, accreditation, and potentially illegal destruction of documents.

"I am hopeful that the NOAA now realizes that the community who support their families through fishing had serious and legitimate complaints about the unfair manner and method of law enforcement," added Kucinich.

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